

WANDERERS EXPOSE THE CLASS GAP

By MICHAEL KNOX Buckingham T. 1, Wycombe W. 7

WITHOUT ever moving into top gear, Wycombe Wanderers disdainfully brushed aside the challenge of Buckingham Town in the first round of the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup on Saturday and so earned a right to visit Chalfont St. Peter on December 20.

This match amply illustrated the tremendous class gap between clubs at the top of non-league football and the smaller teams, successful only in their own sphere.

Buckingham, last season's Intermediate Cup winners, have one of the best records in the United Counties League and gained a highly

creditable victory over the in-form Burnham in the previous round.

But on their attractive rural Ford Meadow ground in front of 800 enthusiastic spectators, they were completely torn apart by Wanderers, who rested some of their senior players to give other members of the squad a slice of the action.

Compared with the side that started the previous Monday's match at home to Bedford, goalkeeper John Maskell, Terry Reardon and Geoff Anthony were rested, while Tony Horseman joined the fit-again Ray Eaton on the substitute's bench — two

substitutes being allowed in County Cup matches.

Derek Cotterill, Peter Spittle and Derek Harris were brought into the side while Dave Alexander played the full 90 minutes. Despite these changes, Wanderers were too slick for their opponents, most of whom were overawed by the occasion.

One exception was their right winger Ian Capel, who was described in the programme as a 'Railways International'. He certainly moved at express pace and gave Dave Bullock an uncomfortable game at left back.

By concentrating on attack, Wycombe sometimes left big holes at the back, but they certainly made the most of their chances and did not seem unduly worried with their defensive problems.

Howard Kennedy opened the scoring in the 11th minute. Bullock's long throw on the left was headed across the penalty area by John Delaney to Kennedy who lobbed his header over the top of Roger Knight, the home side's jittery goalkeeper.

Buckingham had a golden chance to equalise eight minutes later, when Mick Phillips found himself free in the penalty area. He crossed into the goalmouth where Bobby Price sent a low shot inches past the post with Spittle beaten.

This was a rare sally upfield for the North Bucks club, who for most of the time had to contend with the problems posed by the Wycombe forwards. However, Blues had to wait until the 27th minute before increasing their lead through Mick

Hollifield following a goalmouth scramble.

The match really burst to life just before half-time and in a 16 minute spell, broken by the interval, five goals were scored.

41 minutes: Dave Alexander took Wycombe's sixth corner on the right and Delaney rose majestically to head home with a power that nearly broke the back of the net. 3-0.

47 minutes: Paul Birdseye's long pass down the wing found Kennedy. His pass was crossed by Dave Alexander to Harris, who cheekily back-heeled the ball into the net at the near post. 4-0.

51 minutes: Dylan Evans scored one of the simplest goals of the season. Following a corner, the ball broke to the tall Welshman who tapped it in from three yards. 5-0.

56 minutes: Kennedy, who enjoyed a fine game, crossed from the bye-line and watched in delight as the Buckingham right back Jock Cameron planted the ball into his own net. 6-0.

57 minutes: The home side received their only reward when Capel, who appeared to be in an off-side position, received the ball 40 yards from goal and after a short run sent his shot past the approaching Spittle for his 19th goal of the season. 6-1.

Buckingham rallied bravely after this goalburst and the speedy Capel was desperately unlucky to see his shot hit a post after he had once again outpaced the cover defence.

But Wycombe had the last word in the final minute. From their 15th corner — Buckingham forced seven — Alexander crossed into the goalmouth where Delaney thundered in a replica of his first half goal to become the day's leading scorer.

BUCKINGHAM TOWN: R. Knight; Jock Cameron, A. Bambridge, G. Wheeler (sub: A. Coleman 74 mins.), P. Wootton, N. Franklin, Jim Cameron, S. Whiles, M. Phillips (sub: R. Phillips 83 mins.), R. Price, I. Capel.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; P. Birdseye (sub: R. Eaton 66 mins.), D. Bullock, K. Mead, J. Delaney, D. Cotterill, H. Kennedy, D. Alexander, D. Harris, M. Hollifield, D. Evans. Other sub: A. Horseman (not used).

Referee: R. T. Buckingham (Abingdon).

Half-time: 0-3. **Goalscorers:** Buckingham — Capel (57 mins.); Wycombe — Kennedy (11), Hollifield (27), Delaney 2 (41, 90), Harris (47), Evans (51), Jock Cameron (o.g. 56).